

Note for the record

Meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB) 28 June 2023

Participants

Bureau members

African Region – Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa)
Region of the Americas – Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil)
South-East Asia Region – Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand)
Eastern Mediterranean Region – Mr Ahmed Salama Soliman (Egypt)
Western Pacific Region – Mr Kazuho Taguchi (Japan)

Secretariat

Dr Jaouad Mahjour, Assistant Director-General, Emergency Preparedness
Ms Anne Huvos, Unit Head, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
Mr Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer
Mr Kenneth Piercy, Senior Legal Officer
Mr Andrea Nannipieri, External Relations Officer, Governance Unit
Ms Julia Keyworth, Technical Officer, Protocol Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- Bureau members discussed the progress of the informal meetings on Articles 12 and 13 of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (WHO CA+) that had taken place since the end of the resumed fifth meeting of the INB. The Secretariat advised that the informal meetings had been progressing well and effectively facilitating discussion between Member States on the focus issues. The Secretariat noted that relevant WHO staff had attended the meetings to answer questions from Member States on both technical and legal matters.
 - Bureau members agreed to propose a meeting between the INB Bureau and all the co-facilitators of the informal meetings. The meeting would provide an opportunity for the Bureau and co-facilitators to discuss progress made in the informal meetings so far, the arrangements for co-facilitators to report back to the INB during its sixth meeting (INB6) and approaches for potential further informal meetings.
- Bureau members discussed options for holding further informal discussions during INB6. Bureau members asked the Secretariat to develop a revised meeting schedule to avoid conflict with other Member State meetings, with afternoon INB sessions shortened to allow time for informal meetings in the afternoons and evenings. It was agreed that a revised schedule and programme of work would be prepared by the Secretariat and shared with Bureau members for their consideration. Following a request from Bureau members, the Secretariat also agreed to look into whether the larger conference room located next to the INB6 room could be made available for informal discussions during INB6.

- Bureau members discussed the articles to be considered during INB6 and agreed to propose to the INB that Articles 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the WHO CA+ be considered first, followed by Articles 4 and 5 if time permitted. The proposals would be communicated to Member States in advance of INB6 to enable them to prepare for discussions on the articles.
- The Secretariat provided Bureau members with an update on the discussions on the zero draft of the political declaration of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response that had been taking place in New York. At the request of Bureau members, the Secretariat agreed to continue to update the Bureau on the discussions as they progressed.

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